

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00894 231405Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SCCT-01 SY-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OC-05 CCO-00

A-01 OPR-02 PER-01 AID-05 USSS-00 /080 W

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FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3650

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF BRITISH CONSUL

REF: ASMARA 0893

1. AT THIS POINT, IN ABSENCE ANY STATEMENT OF DEMANDS BY ELF KIDNAPPERS OF BRITISH CONSUL ASMARA, I CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON MOTIVES FOR THIS ABDUCTION.

2. IT APPEARS PROBABLE THAT AS USG INTRANSIGENCE IN REFUSING MEET INSURGENT DEMANDS WITH REGARD TO KAGNEW 4 BECOMES INCREASINGLY CLEAR, THEY SEEKING ALTERNATIVE TARGETS THAT WILL BOTH INVOLVE
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00894 231405Z

OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND PROVIDE INCREASED PUBLICITY FOR THEIR CAUSE.

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND BUSINESSMEN OBVIOUS CHOICE. BURWOOD-TAYLOR IS BOTH. HE IS WELL KNOWN LOCAL FIGURE WHO FIRST ENTERED ETHIOPIAN SCENE WITH WINGATE'S FORCES DURING WWII AND STAYED ON, FIRST AS SOLDIER THEN AS BUSINESSMAN. HE IS KNOWN TO THE ELF, HAVING BEEN SEIZED AND BRIEFLY HELD ALONG WITH ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS SEVERAL YEARS AGO. HIS UNPROTECTED DOWNTOWN OFFICE MUCH MORE VULNERABLE THAN ANY OCCUPIED BY OTHER CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS. THE EPMG APPARENTLY WASTED NO TIME IN PUBLICIZING ABDUCTION AFTER BRITISH EMBASSY ADDIS RAISED ABDUCTION WITH FON MINISTRY. BBC, ON ITS 1400 BROADCAST TODAY, CARRIED STORY ASCRIBED TO ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT BRITISH CONSUL IN ASMARA KIDNAPPED BY UNKNOWN PERSONS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER ATTEMPTS ARE MADE ON OTHER FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES.

3. CAREER CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN ASMARA AS FOLLOWS: ITALIAN, SUDANESE, AND AMERICAN CONSULATES GENERAL, FRENCH CONSULATE. HONORARY CONSULATES: BRITISH AND BELGIAN. UPON HEARING OF BURWOOD-TAYLOR'S ABDUCTION, I INFORMED OTHER COLLEAGUES AND SUGGESTED THEY REVIEW THEIR PRESENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. ALL EXPRESSED SHOCK AND CONCERN AT ABDUCTION, AND DEAN OF CORPS, ITALIAN CONSUL GENERAL, SAID HE WOULD SEE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, BG GETACHEW NADEW, TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR CONSULAR PREMISES. SUDANESE CONSUL GENERAL, WHO CIRCULATES FREELY ON FOOT IN ASMARA DISCUSSED ABDUCTION WITH NUMEROUS ERITREANS LATE THIS MORNING AND REPORTS GENERAL CONSENSUS ON MOTIVE AS "PROPAGANDA". THIS VIEW IS LENT CREDENCE BY CARE WITH WHICH ABDUCTORS NOTIFIED BRITISH CONSULATE AND GELATLY-HANKEY STAFF THAT THEY REPRESENTED ELF AS WELL AS PROPAGANDA HARANGUE THEY DELIVERED.

4. I CONVENED MEETING THIS AFTERNOON OF CONGEN, NAVCOMMUNIT, AND CISCO/PA&EREPS TO REVIEW OUR SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO PERSONNEL LIVING OFF COMPOUNDS. I HAVE ALSO BRIEFED WIVES. AS FOR CONGEN COMPOUND, I HAVE RESTRICTED ACCESS TO KNOWN AMERICANS AND OTHERS CLEARED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

5. ALL AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR AND MORALE REMAINS HIGH DESPITE THIS LATEST OCCURANCE.
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